



Brownfields 2003 Grant Fact Sheet

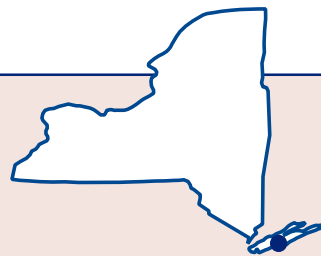
Babylon, NY

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Town of Babylon was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Babylon (population 10,000) is located approximately 30 miles east of New York City in the southwestern portion of Suffolk County on Long Island. Within the town is the hamlet of Wyandanch, a 4.4-square mile area that is one of the most economically depressed communities in the state and the poorest community in Suffolk County. The two poorest census tracts on all of Long Island are in Wyandanch, where 20 percent of the residents live below the poverty level and the average unemployment rate is 10 percent. In addition, the community, which is 94 percent minority, has an alarmingly high incidence of breast cancer and asthma. Wyandanch exemplifies the link between poverty, economic hardship, and the siting



Assessment Grant

New
2003

\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Town of Babylon for a brownfields assessment grant. The town intends to use grant funds to inventory, prioritize, and assess brownfields with suspected petroleum contamination in the economically disadvantaged, predominantly minority hamlet of Wyandanch. Grant funds also will be used for community involvement and outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team
212-637-4314
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Town of Babylon, NY
631-422-7640

Prior to receipt of these funds in fiscal year 2003, the Town of Babylon has not received brownfields grant funding.

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

of hazardous waste sites. This grant will enable Babylon to inventory, prioritize, and conduct environmental site assessments on a number of sites in Wyandanch where petroleum contamination is suspected. Once these brownfields have been assessed, the town can take additional steps to clean up and redevelop these properties, thereby creating jobs and eliminating potential human health threats.